(ix) training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products;

(x) Other matters as may be prescribed.

(b) APEDA has its Head Office in New Delhi and has regional offices at Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Guwahati and virtual offices at Patna, Raipur, Ahmedabad, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal, Lamphelpat, Kohima, Bhubaneshwar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Agartala and Lucknow.

(c) APEDA is contributing to the efforts to enhance exports of agricultural and processed foods through setting up of infrastructure projects like centres of perishable cargo at international airports, wholesale market-cum-auction centres, common infrastructure facilities for handling fresh fruits and vegetables etc. It is also involved in residue monitoring and recognition of laboratories for the purpose. It has assisted 350 export units for setting up packaging and grading lines, intermediate sheds, crates for transportation, equipments for in house labs, pre-cooling units, high humidity cold storages, refrigerated transport units etc.

Fall in seafood exports after Tsunami

962. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether seafood export and number of seafood exporters especially shrimp exports feel sharply after Tsunami of December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details including number of exporters associated with shrimp export to US, quantity of shrimp exported to united States and the amount of foreign exchange received during the period January, 2004 to June, 2005, month-wise and category-wise;

(c) the details of action taken to protect sea export especially shrimp export;

(d) whether any action is being taken to revoke anti-dumping duties imposed on shrimp from India by US;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) As per the export figures (provisional for April and May, 2005), compiled by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) on the basis of shipping bills and invoices for the period January, 2005 to May, 2005, the export of marine products have shown an increase of 6.28% in quantity and 9.33% in dollar terms as compared to the corresponding period of last year. In respect of the export of frozen shrimp, there was a decline on 0.85% in quantity and an increase of 0.92% in dollar terms during the same period. 80 seafood exporters effected the shipment of frozen shrimp to the USA during January, 2005 to May, 2005 as against 86 exporters during the corresponding period last year.

Month-wise export of frozen shrimp to the USA during the period, January, 2004 to May, 2005 have been as follows:

Month	Quantity (In Tonnes)	Value (In Million US Dollar)
January, 2004	6832	52.44
February, 2004	2239	18.32
March, 2004	1043	9.25
April, 2004	1156	9.84
May, 2004	1652	12.95
June, 2004	4234	36.53
July, 2004	3815	31.95
August, 2004	3204	30.40
September, 2004	3427	30.56
October, 2004	3348	29.63
November, 2004	3495	30.53
December, 2004	2824	24.38
January, 2005	2414	22.84
February, 2005	2439	23.29
March, 2005	2011	18.66
April, 2005 (Provisional)	1137	10.56
May, 2005 (Provisional)	1122	9.33

(c) Necessary promotional support is being extended to ensure upgradation of processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, training and other capacity building measures, value addition, marketing support.

(d) and (e) The United States International Trade Commission (US ITC) is conducting the Changed Circumstances Review of its decision of levying final anti-dumping duties on import of Indian shrimps and the MPEDA as well as the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) have been defending the interests of Indian shrimp farmers and industry.

(f) Does not arise in view of the above.

New subjects in protocol of WTO

963. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that WTO is including new subjects and new areas without proper approval from Member-countries like India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the WTO has included new subjects like 'Competition Policy', Labour standards, etc., which were not in the original protocols of WTO;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has not lodged any formal protest with WTO;

(d) if so, the reasons for Government not raising this issue in the proper fora; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) Decision making in World Trade Organisation (WTO) is governed by Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO. However, decisions in WTO are taken by consensus among the WTO Members. Hence, the question of WTO taking any decision on inclusion of new subjects and new areas without approval of WTO Members does not arise.

At the Singapore Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in December, 1996, it was agreed to set up Working Groups on four issues, namely,